

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL  
10 DECEMBER 1982

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WASHINGTON  
Freeze

President Reagan said Friday the millions who support the nuclear freeze movement are well-intentioned but they may be "carrying water for another person" -- the Soviet Union.

Reagan renewed his contention that Russia is helping to finance and organize the nuclear freeze movement in America. He said he has "researched" news reports that originally brought him to that conclusion and that with the exception of a few cases of "journalistic exaggeration" found they were true.

The chairman of the House Intelligence Committee says that despite assertions by Reagan, the FBI and CIA, he has found no evidence that the Soviet Union is manipulating the nuclear freeze movement.

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Secret FBI and CIA testimony from July, released by Rep. Edward Boland, D-Mass., said the Soviets are involved with Western European peace groups and a Soviet diplomat and KGB agents are attempting to influence U.S. activists.

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In the secret testimony released by Boland, Deputy CIA Director John McMahon said there is evidence that the Soviets are "manipulating and financing activities by some elements of the so-called peace movement in Western Europe."

Apparently referring to the European peace movement, McMahon said, "We do have good evidence, however, that the Soviets have sought to exploit and manipulate the movement, and we believe that Soviet covert support has enabled it to grow beyond its own capabilities."

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CIA official Martin Portman told the panel that Soviet agents make "common cause" with groups they do not normally work with and "many people get misled because a lot of these people that they then recruit as these clandestine agents of influence within the organizations are not overtly noticeable as such."

*EXCERPTED*